productivity and quality of service as well as to bring in competitiveness in Port Services, the Port Sector has been thrown open to private sector participation.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development/upgradation of minor ports lies entirely with the State Government concerned, which have administrative control on such ports.

Selling of Land for Creating a Pension Fund for CPT Employees

3754. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the Calcutta Port Trust to formulate a scheme for selling some of its land to utilize the sale proceeds for creating a Pension Fund for its employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Calcutta Port Trust is unable to meet its annual liabilities of pensioners out of its own internal resources ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to implement economy measures in Calcutta Port Trust and reduce its unnecessary expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Because of large number of pensioners in Calcutta Port Trust, the current income of the Port Trust is not adequate to meet the pension liabilities.

(e) Various economy measures aimed at reduction in expenditure, such as reducing overtime allowance, electricity charges, fringe benefits and voluntary retirement of the employees have been initiated by the Calcutta Port Trust.

Proposal to Link Ganga and Brahmaputra

3755. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to link Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers as national waterways to facilitate navigational links ;